

REMARKS

At the time the current Official Action was mailed, the Examiner rejected claims 1-38. Further, the Examiner objected to portions of the specification and drawings. In the present Amendment and Response, the specification and drawings have been amended. The amendments to the drawings are included in Appendix A. As such, reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks and amendments set forth below is respectfully requested.

Objections to the Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification. Specifically, the Examiner stated:

The abstract of the disclosure is objected to. The amended paragraph 0021, line 5 on Remark, page 7 states “which may any number of channels”. Applicant may have meant “which may *be* any number of channels”. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01 (b).

Applicants have amended the text of paragraph 0021, as suggested by the Examiner.

With regard to the objection to the abstract, applicants are unclear as to the nature of the rejection and respectfully request clarification as to the specific nature of the objection to the Abstract.

Objections to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to drawings because the Examiner asserted that Figure 1 should be designated as “Prior Art.” Specifically, the Examiner stated:

Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as –Prior Art—because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02 (g). Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121 (d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled “Replacement Sheet” in the page header (as

per 37 CFR 1.121 (d)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83 (a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the plurality of processors in claim 31 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claims(s). No new matter should be entered.

Applicants have amended Fig. 1 to designate it as prior art. A replacement sheet is attached hereto in Appendix A.

With regard to the Examiner's objection to the subject matter of claim 31, paragraph [0024] has been amended to indicate that the plurality of processors recited in claim 31 are included in the CPU nodes 611, 612, 613 and 614 illustrated in Fig. 4. Applicants submit that this amendment to the specification is sufficient to overcome the Examiner's objection to claim 31.

Paragraph [0024] was further amended to correct a minor typographical error. As illustrated in Fig. 1, the "buses" correspond to reference numeral 280, rather than 230, as initially designated in paragraph [0024]. The paragraph has been amended such that the buses are designated by the reference numeral 280. Fig. 4 has also been amended to correct the same typographical error. A replacement sheet for Fig. 4 is attached hereto in Appendix A.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 21 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) as being anticipated by Hausauer (U.S. Patent No. 6,138,192). Further, the Examiner rejected claims 12-13 and 15-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (a) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art. The

Examiner rejected claims 1-11, 14 and 31-38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over admitted prior art and well-known practice in the computer art. Finally, the Examiner rejected claims 12, 13 and 15-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over the combination of the Hausauer and “PCI-to-PCI Bridge Architecture Specification” by PCISIG. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. Based on the nature of the rejections and the current amendments, the rejections will be discussed together below.

Anticipation under Section 102 can be found only if a single reference shows exactly what is claimed. *Titanium Metals Corp. v. Banner*, 778 F.2d 775, 227 U.S.P.Q. 773 (Fed. Cir. 1985). For a prior art reference to anticipate under Section 102, every element of the claimed invention must be identically shown in a single reference. *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 U.S.P.Q.2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990). To maintain a proper rejection under Section 102, a single reference must teach each and every element or step of the rejected claim. *Atlas Powder v. E.I. du Pont*, 750 F.2d 1569 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Thus, if the claims recite even one element not found in the cited reference, the reference does not anticipate the claimed invention.

The burden of establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness falls on the Examiner. *Ex parte Wolters and Kuypers*, 214 U.S.P.Q. 735 (B.P.A.I. 1979). Obviousness cannot be established by combining the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention absent some teaching or suggestion supporting the combination. *ACS Hospital Systems, Inc. v. Montefiore Hospital*, 732 F.2d 1572, 1577, 221 U.S.P.Q. 929, 933 (Fed. Cir. 1984). Accordingly, to establish a *prima facie* case, the Examiner must not only show that the combination includes *all* of the claimed elements, but also a convincing line of reason as to

why one of ordinary skill in the art would have found the claimed invention to have been obvious in light of the teachings of the references. *Ex parte Clapp*, 227 U.S.P.Q. 972 (B.P.A.I. 1985).

As discussed in the prior response, mailed by applicants on November 17, 2004, to the office action mailed from the PTO on August 17, 2004, Applicants maintain that nothing in the present specification should be designated as *admitted* prior art. Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 2129, the statements of an applicant can only be used as an admission if the applicant specifically admits that something is prior art. Simply *mentioning* something in the paragraphs of the “Description of Related Art” section, which is herein referred to as the “background section,” is *not* an inherent admission of prior art under 35 USC 102. Accordingly, the passages relied upon by the Examiner and alleged to be prior art are, in fact, not an admission of prior art by Applicants.

Regardless, Applicants respectfully submit that this point is moot in view of the present amendments. Each of the independent claims has been amended to set forth the recited subject matter more clearly. As amended, claim 1 recites, a parent-bridge comprising a plurality of transaction identifiers and a plurality of transaction order queues, “wherein each of the plurality of transaction identifiers is uniquely associated with only one of the plurality of transaction order queues.” Claim 12 recites a child-bridge comprising a plurality of grandchild-links and a plurality of transaction identifiers, “wherein each of the plurality of transaction identifiers is uniquely associated with only one of the plurality of grandchild-links.” Claim 21 recites a method of routing transactions comprising the step of “matching the transaction identifier to a transaction order queue of the plurality of transaction order queues for the child-link, wherein the transaction identifier is uniquely associated with only one of the

plurality of transaction order queues.” Claim 26 recites a method of routing transactions comprising the step of “originating a transaction identifier, wherein the transaction identifier is uniquely associated with the grand-child link.” Claim 31 recites a computer system comprising a parent-bridge comprising a plurality of transaction order queues and a child-bridge comprising a plurality of grandchild-links, “wherein each of the plurality of transaction order queues is associated with at least one of the plurality of grandchild-links.”

Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments to each of the independent claims are sufficient to overcome all of the Examiner’s rejections. Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit, that the Hausauer reference does not disclose the features uniquely recited in each of the independent claims, as amended. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that the present amendments are sufficient to distinguish the claims from the related art described at pages 2 and 3 to which the Examiner made reference. More specifically, none of the art of record, taken alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests transaction identifiers uniquely associated with transaction order queues in a parent-bridge, as recited in claims 1 and 21. Further, none of the art of record, taken alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests transaction identifiers uniquely associated with only one grandchild-link in a child-bridge, as recited in claims 12 and 26. Still further, none of the art of record, taken alone or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests a system comprising a parent-bridge comprising transaction order queues and a child-bridge comprising a plurality of grandchild-links, wherein each of the transaction order queues is associated with at least one of the grandchild-links, as recited in claim 31.

Because none of the art of record, taken alone or in combination, discloses or suggests all of the features as recited in any of the independent claims, the cited references cannot

possibly anticipate or render these claims obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of claims 1-38.

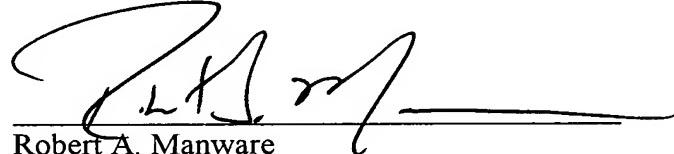
New Claims

New claim 39 has been added. Applicants respectfully submit that none of the art of record discloses or suggests all of the features as recited in claim 39. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request consideration and allowance of claim 39.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks set forth above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections and allowance of all pending claims 1-39. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Date: May 10, 2005



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IN THE DRAWINGS

Please replace the Figs. 1 and 4 with the replacement drawings attached hereto as
Appendix A.